sanctioned. But in 1086 the reorganisation of the P. W. D. was sanctioned, though the same set of conditions as in 1079 had prevailed. What was more, the practice in the department was to maintain large clerical establishments in the various offices out of funds sanctioned for works. Consequently, several works of public utility were being delayed; it was also a common spectacle of materials being heaped up on the sides of roads for years without the sanctioned repairs being executed. The Member requested the immediate abolition of such temporary establishments. Construction of buildings as quarters for the P. W. D. Officers was strongly objected to and it was complained that funds allotted for repair or maintenance of roads or other works were being unauthorisedly diverted for the execution of repairs in the quarters of officers. Provision of quarters in hilly parts might be necessary but not in urban areas where there was no dearth of buildings. Again, in fixing rents for Sirkar buildings or carrying out repairs there was no definite rule or principle and it oftentimes happened that the cost of annual maintenance far exceeded the amount collected as rent. Finally, when Government money was spent or handled by departments, great loss to the State was caused by the indifference or neglect of duty of subordinate officers. The Kottayam Forest defalcation case was cited as an instance. Such losses should be prevented and all possible care should be taken to bring the delinquents to book and also to recoup the loss whenever it occurred. To remedy the defects pointed out by the Member and to rectify other evils which stood in the way of bringing about a more satisfactory improvement in the finances of the country, the appointment of a Retrenchment Committee was suggested as the sole remedy.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

II. MAIN HEADS OF REVENUE.

(I.) Land Revenue.

4. Hardships caused by the prohibition of *malavarom* cultivation and the practice of dealing with cases of such cultivation under the Land Conservancy Regulation.

Mr. S. Lakshminarayana Iyer (Member, T. I. C., Padmanabhapuram) said that the system of *malavarom* cultivation, which had been in vogue for a very long time, was a source of benefit to the ryots and profit to Government. The recent prohibition of such cultivation had caused great hardship to the ryots many of whom were poor and illiterate. The ryots who had been in possession and enjoyment of the lands and had grown trees thereon and the persons who occupied waste lands and raised temporary cultivation were proceeded against under the Land Conservancy Regulation, punished severely and evicted therefrom. Their eviction from the lands and the imposition of heavy prohibitory assessment for the period of their occupation were a source of immense hardship to them. The lands should be granted to them on permanent registry under the Puduval Rules, wherever possible. Even in cases where that could not be done, the ryots should be permitted to hold the lands and raise *malavarom* cultivation from year to year on all unregistered waste lands in the hills and lying near the forests, except those which might be required for Government purposes or were reserved as grazing grounds, on payment of an annual tax to be prescribed. In any event lands in the long occupation of ryots should not be required to be vacated.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

5. Suggestions for the modification of the rules under the Poramboke Regulation so as to avoid the arbitrary way in which assessment is levied under the Regulation and to provide for a well-ordained system in the taking up of *poramboke* cases.

Mr. A. Thanumalayaperumal Pillai (Member, Tovala taluk) represented that formerly ryots used to occupy several *poramboke* lands and plant manure trees thereon and that the rights of the ryots to the trees planted by them were recognised by Government. In their Circular No. 6256, dated 9th October 1917, Government ordered that such trees be leased on Kuthagapattom without limit of time to the ryots who planted them, provided there was clear evidence that they were planted and nurtured by them. There were again trees in the possession and enjoyment of ryots

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